

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00388 200922Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W  
-----076670 210225Z /64  
R 200901Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247  
SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0388

EO 11652: XGDS-1 IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE  
TAGS: MASS MO  
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR OV-10 AIRCRAFT

REF 77 STATE 268597 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT REQUEST OF COLONEL ACHABAR, SYG OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, I MET JANUARY 18 WITH HIM AND MOROCCAN AIR FORCE CHIEF KABBAJ. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO URGE RAPID ACTION OF THE FORMAL MOROCCAN REQUEST OF NOVEMBER 12, 1977 TO PURCHASE 24 OV-10 AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY CONTAINED IN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI'S SHOPPING LIST GIVEN TO SECRETARY VANCE ON SEPTEMBER 13. I REVIEWED THE VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AND IN MOROCCO ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND URGED CONTINUED PATIENCE WHILE THE USG SORTED OUT ITS POSITION ON THE OVERALL QUESTION OF ARMS DESTINED FOR USE IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO, THE WESTERN SAHARA AND MAURITANIA.

2. COLONEL KABBAJ CITED THE UNFAVORABLE DISPARITY IN ARMS BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO, THE CLEARLY DEFENSIVE ROLE OF THE OV-10, AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF HOLDING IN ABEYANCE DECISION ON BUDGETARY AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES. FINALLY HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE FIVE TO SIX MONTHS FOR TRAINING OF FLIGHT AND  
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MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL ONCE THE AIRCRAFT WERE OBTAINED.

3. COLONEL KABBAJ RAISED AGAIN HIS INTEREST IN VISITING THE U.S. TO SEE THE SIX OV-10S THE GOM WOULD RECEIVE EARLY FROM OUR U.S. MARINE CORPS IF THE SALE IS APPROVED, NOTING THAT HIS PRESENCE IN THE U.S. MIGHT HELP MOVE THINGS ALONG. HE ACCEPTED MY ADVICE THAT THIS WAS NOT THE MOMENT TO RAISE

AGAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A TRIP.

4. COMMENT: ALREADY SENSITIZED BY OUR DELAY IN 1975-76 IN  
DECIDING TO SELL F-5'S TO MOROCCO (WHICH LED TO GOM'S  
CHOICE OF THE F-1), THE MOROCCAN MILITARY ARE CLEARLY  
CONCERNED OVER THE LACK OF A RESPONSE ON THIS HIGH-PRIORITY  
ITEM. I BELIEVE KABBAJ AND ACHABAR HAVE ACCEPTED MY COUNSEL  
TO BIDE THEIR TIME FOR THE MOMENT IN THE HOPE THAT A  
FAVORABLE DECISION WILL SOON BE MADE.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978RABAT00388  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1 IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR OV-10 AIRCRAFT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014